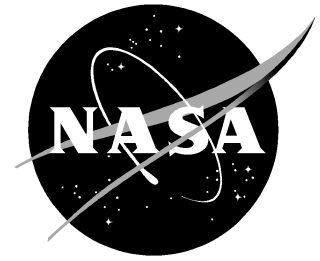


NewsRelease

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Langley Research Center
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For Release: July 27, 2000

RELEASE: 00-061

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

Investigator outlines Mars' challenges

Since the beginning of space exploration, man has dreamed of going to the Red Planet. NASA developed its Mars program to make the dream a reality. With the help of a Viking mission expert, NASA is finding ways to make the Mars program successful.

Thomas Young, chair of the Mars Program Independent Assessment Team, will discuss the team's analysis of NASA's Mars exploration program at a colloquium at 2 p.m. Tuesday, August 1, at NASA Langley's H.J.E. Reid Conference Center.

Media Briefing:

A media briefing will be held at 1:15 p.m. at the H.J.E. Reid Conference Center, 14 Langley Blvd., at NASA Langley Research Center. Media who wish to attend should contact Rachel Gilbert at (757) 864-2961.

NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin appointed Young, a seasoned space industry executive, to lead the assessment team. Young will discuss how his team reviewed recent missions and the reasons why some of the missions were successful, while others were not. He will also present the lessons learned from the study and talk specifically about the Mars Surveyor Program.

Young has held many prominent positions in the aerospace community, including Executive Vice President at Lockheed Martin and President and Chief Operating Officer for Martin Marietta. Young has also held many positions within NASA, including Director of the Goddard Space Flight Center, Deputy Director of the Ames Research Center, Director of Planetary Programs at NASA Headquarters and Mission Director of the Viking Project at the Langley Research Center, for which he received the NASA Distinguished Service Medal. He has Bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering and aerospace engineering from the University of Virginia and a Master's degree in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Young is currently a member of the NASA Advisory Council and Chairman of the National Academy of Engineering Committee on Technology Literacy.

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